

House Resolution 532

By: Representatives Cooper of the 41st, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th, Drenner of the 86th, Hembree of the 67th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Nursing Education in Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is faced with a nursing crisis in the staffing of hospitals and health care
4 facilities in this state and a shortage of registered nurses to care for its citizens; and

5 WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that all Georgians have access to quality health care
6 that cannot be met with the existing number of practicing registered nurses; and

7 WHEREAS, many hospitals and other health care facilities are struggling to staff their
8 facilities with nursing personnel to care adequately for the patients in such facilities, and the
9 nursing staffs are overworked and unable many times to meet the basic care needs of the
10 patients; and

11 WHEREAS, a great need exists to increase the number of practicing nurses in Georgia who
12 can provide safe, high quality care to all Georgia patients; and

13 WHEREAS, the nursing education programs in the University System of Georgia, Technical
14 College System of Georgia, and Georgia's private universities and colleges have substantially
15 increased the number of nursing graduates in recent years; and

16 WHEREAS, the nursing education programs of this state face significant challenges in
17 further increasing output of new nurses due to faculty shortages, budget constraints, lack of
18 clinical space, and other reasons; and

19 WHEREAS, nursing education programs must maintain high quality in their graduates as
20 they produce additional new nurses so that Georgians are guaranteed high quality, safe health
21 care.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
23 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Nursing Education in Georgia
24 to be composed of 15 members as follows: the chairpersons of the House Committee on
25 Health and Human Services, House Committee on Higher Education, Senate Health and
26 Human Services Committee, and Senate Higher Education Committee; the chairperson of
27 the State Board of Nursing; two nursing deans from the University System of Georgia,
28 appointed by the chancellor; one representative from the Technical College System of
29 Georgia, to be appointed by its commissioner; one nursing dean from a private nonprofit
30 nursing program in Georgia, appointed by the Governor; two representatives from nursing
31 employers in this state, one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and
32 one appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; two members who were previously seriously ill
33 and hospitalized within the last three years, one appointed by the Speaker of the House of
34 Representatives and one appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; one representative from the
35 Board of Nursing who is a registered nurse, appointed by the Governor; and one member
36 from the general public with no direct affiliation with nursing, appointed by the Governor.
37 The chairpersons of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate
38 Higher Education Committee shall serve as cochairpersons. The committee shall meet at the
39 call of the cochairpersons.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
41 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
42 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall
43 work with the technical and staffing support of the Center for Health Workforce Planning
44 and Analysis of the University System of Georgia. The committee may conduct such
45 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable
46 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the
47 objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall
48 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
49 Annotated. The nonlegislative members shall only receive the mileage allowance authorized
50 for state employees. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
51 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
52 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
53 appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the event the committee
54 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
55 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2009. The
56 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2009.